

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

Claim 1 ( Currently Amended ): A method for examining a caries risk comprising identifying a ~~subject's~~ patient's genotype for a DRB1\* ~~gene, which is in~~ an HLA class II type gene; and

comparing the identified genotype with a table, caries risk, wherein the genotype correlating to caries risk which has been determined beforehand, wherein the table correlates a combination of two different genotypes or combinations of the same genotype and caries risk, and which genotype wherein the caries risk is derived from an antibody titer of a secretory immunoglobulin A in human saliva against an antigen ~~as correlative to caries risk, which wherein the~~ antigen is a synthetic protein consisting of an amino acid sequence SEQ ID NO:1, wherein if the identified genotype from the subject is a genotype correlating to a high caries risk then the subject is at risk for developing caries.

Claims 2 and 3 ( Cancelled).